



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota**

**Frank J. Magill,
Acting United States Attorney**

David Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist
(612) 664-5684; cell: (612) 730-2251

News Release

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Receiving child pornography charges added to Coon Rapids man's indictment

Three charges of receipt of child pornography were added yesterday against a 47-year-old Coon Rapids man who was previously charged with possession of child pornography.

The superseding indictment filed March 20 against Scott William Anderson alleges that on three dates in 2004, Anderson knowingly received computer files of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct that had been transported in interstate and foreign commerce, by means of a computer.

Anderson's original indictment, filed on July 18, 2007, charged him with one count of possession of child pornography. That count, which is also in the superseding indictment, alleged that on March 22, 2005, Anderson knowingly possessed on a computer child pornography images that had traveled in interstate commerce.

If convicted, Anderson faces a potential maximum penalty of 40 years in prison on each receipt count and 20 years on the possession count. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge.

This case is the result of an investigation by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Coon Rapids Police Department. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert M. Lewis.

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC), a national initiative that encourages the use of multi-jurisdictional task forces to investigate and prosecute cases that involve the sexual exploitation of children over the Internet. PSC urges that law enforcement efforts be complemented by community-wide campaigns to assist victims of exploitation and to educate parents, other adults, and children about Internet safety.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, one in 33 children receives an unwanted sexual

solicitation online each year. One in four children experiences unwanted exposure to sexually explicit material on the Internet each year. And, more than 20,000 images of child pornography are posted on the Internet every week. Moreover, recent research conducted by the Federal Bureau of Prisons indicates a strong correlation between possessing or distributing child pornography and committing sexual-contact crimes against children.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.